

## IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have demonstrated their commitment to immigration reform by passing a very strong border security bill that focus on strengthening our border and enforcing our law. I think that the House Republican bill does reflect the majority of Americans.

Unfortunately, Democrats have decided to go a different way. The Reid-Kennedy immigration bill would, one, allow as many as 60 million more immigrants over the next 20 years; two, Mexico would have to be consulted regarding construction of a barrier on our border; and, three, guaranteed Social Security benefits would be provided for illegal immigrants for the time they were in the country illegally.

So if an American citizen broke our Social Security laws, he or she would face jail time. But if an illegal immigrant broke the laws to get here and then broke our Social Security laws, we are going to reward them.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are doing the right thing by taking this issue to the Nation. We are holding hearings around the country to gain input from our citizens. Already a common theme we are hearing is that people would rather have no bill than a bad bill.

So in the interim, as Congress remains in a stalemate with the Democratic Senate bill, how about this as a concept: Enforce the current immigration laws.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESS IGNORES  
MIDDLE CLASS NEEDS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, we are more than halfway through the year, and the Republican do-nothing Congress has yet to pass any meaningful legislation that will benefit America's middle class.

For too long, President Bush and his friends here in the Congress have worked exclusively on behalf of the CEOs and the most privileged in our Nation. But Democrats believe it is time to take our Nation in a new direction, one where America works for all Americans.

Thanks to the misplaced priorities of Washington Republicans, middle-class Americans are working for less today than they were when the recovery began in November 2001. While wages are stagnant, monthly bills have gone through the roof. College costs 40 percent more. Health care costs are 75 percent more, and gas prices have doubled. These dramatic increases have forced

millions of hardworking Americans to take on debt.

And yet Washington Republicans continue to tout this economy. They really are out of touch. I think they have been spending way too much time at the country club. It is time that the voices of all Americans are heard, and that will only happen with a Democratic Congress.

## RECOGNIZING EMILY LAWRIMORE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the continuity of a congressional session, there is a normal shuffling of staff positions. Today, it is with mixed emotions that I announce the departure of Emily Lawrimore.

For the past year and a half, Emily has held one of the most difficult jobs on Capitol Hill, serving as the communications director in the office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina.

Emily has handled her position with professionalism, grace and integrity. Her dedication and work ethic will be difficult to replace.

Emily began her career in Washington as a staff member of Congressman Charlie Norwood. She left the halls of Congress last Friday to become assistant press secretary for President George W. Bush. I am confident that Emily will be a welcome addition to the President's press office.

As a graduate of Clemson University, Emily Lawrimore is one of two children of Marshall and Cindy Lawrimore of Columbus, Georgia. She is a credit to the people of South Carolina and Georgia, and I wish her godspeed.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

## FILE FREEZE

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, in this age of electronic transactions, we are all highly vulnerable to having our identity stolen and our credit ruined. Americans deserve every tool available to help protect their identities and their credit.

And yet a data protection bill that passed out of the Committee on Financial Services and that is moving to this floor for a vote strips away the ability that consumers in 18 States have to control access to their credit reports at all times. It would allow consumers to freeze their files only after they are victims of identity theft, and that would absolutely do no good.

File freeze works because it stops the granting of new credit without the consumers' expressed permission. I urge my colleagues to help protect consumers' credit and identities. I urge

them to cosponsor H.R. 5482 and join me in fighting for consumers to have the ability to freeze their own credit information.

## SMALL BUSINESS BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to give the American people an update regarding what the House has done to implement the Small Business Bill of Rights.

Small businesses create 70 percent of all new jobs. In April of 2005, the House passed the Small Business Bill of Rights which provided a blueprint for Congress to help small businesses create new jobs. As the author of this legislation, I am pleased to report that the House has done its job in 2005.

In April, the House passed legislation repealing the death tax to allow family-owned small businesses to survive.

In July, the House passed association health plans to help small businesses with the skyrocketing cost of health insurance.

Also in July, the House passed four OSHA reform bills to help small businesses with red tape relief.

In October, the House cracked down on frivolous lawsuits by passing the Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act and the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act, which I authored.

Currently, all of these bills are stuck in the Senate and time is running out. I urge the Senate to act now to help small businesses by passing these legislative initiatives.

TIME TO MOVE IN A NEW  
DIRECTION

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, it is becoming an election year tradition: House Republicans bringing up hot-button issues that have absolutely no chance of ever becoming law.

This week, House Republicans will use pledge protection and gay marriage as a means to distract and divide our Nation. Are these really the priorities of the Republican majority when we have a hot spot virtually spinning out of control in the Middle East?

The truth is this is nothing but an attempt to turn attention away from their failures over the last year on the issues that are the most important to the majority of the American people.

Republicans have failed to join us in increasing the minimum wage, they have yet to provide any relief to the American consumer at the gas pump, they continue to stall negotiations on comprehensive border security and immigration reform, and they have allowed the issue of lobbying reform to fall off the legislative agenda after all

of the lobbying corruption we have witnessed over the last year from the other side of the aisle.

#### PREACH ON, MR. PRESIDENT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, our President was caught on camera, on microphone, and off the cuff yesterday. He said: "What they need to do is get Syria to get Hezbollah to stop doing this (non-sense), and it's over."

He told Tony Blair he felt like telling U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to get on the phone with Syria's President and "make something happen." After all, that's Annan's job.

What he said was the truth. I am glad we got to hear his candor, his straight talk, his no nonsense analyzing the problem: Syria can stop this border war.

He stated: "Hezbollah is housed and encouraged by Syria and financed by Iran."

Our President left out the politically correct niceties and cut to the chase.

Mr. President, preach on, preach on. The blunt blazing truth without any fluff is what needs to be said. We know who is behind the attacks against Israel and we know who can stop it. It is time all people of the world hold the aggressive Hezbollah terrorist thugs accountable for starting this border war.

And that's just the way it is.

#### SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 4376, the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts Act of 2005. This legislation authorizes the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of the superb Springfield Technical Community College.

The Springfield Armory Museum is home to Longfellow's famous gun rack which inspired the arsenal at Springfield, home to the Springfield rifle, the Gerrard rifle, the site of Shay's rebellion and located on the Knox Trail which General Knox used and traversed as he moved to Boston and Dorchester for those fateful days of the American Revolution.

This legislation seeks to recognize and update the partnership between the Park Service and the college by authorizing the Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth to provide financial assistance to the college for the purpose of maintaining, preserving, renovating and rehabilitating many of the historic structures within the Springfield National Historic Site.

This is a very important piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and it actually will allow a cooperative agreement to take place that will transform the complexion of what is also the site of the famous Olmstead Papers. I am grateful for this recognition that the House offered yesterday on behalf of these two individual sites.

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#### REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share good news with the American people. Republicans' pro-growth economic agenda, combined with spending restraint, is driving the deficit down while pushing revenues up. In fact, if we can continue along this path of fiscal restraint, we will cut the deficit in half by the year 2008.

In addition to decreasing the deficit, the economy has created 2 million new jobs in the past year. In fact, over the past 3 years America has created more new jobs than Japan and all 25 members of the European Union combined.

Mr. Speaker, tax cuts are working. Our economy is strong and the deficit is down.

Republicans have been working tirelessly and successfully to push our economy in the right direction. Democrats, on the other hand, continue to push their tax and spend policies, a plan which is neither good for the family checkbook nor the American economy.

#### CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Regional Health Forum that was held on July 7 in Los Angeles, California.

The Hispanic Caucus and Congressmember JOHN CONYERS from the Black Caucus came together with over 200 community activists to find a new direction to battle health care disparities in disadvantaged communities.

The new direction that we have adopted ensures quality health care that is accessible, affordable and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

An accessible and culturally sensitive health care system is critical to addressing conditions that disproportionately impact communities of color like, for example, diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, HIV and AIDS, and mental illness. All these chronic illnesses affect our communities.

The new direction developed at the forum is one where community members, providers and policymakers at the local, State and Federal levels come together to collaborate to end health

care disparities; and we plan for solutions in the next upcoming congressional session.

We came together with the Hispanic Caucus at this forum in Los Angeles, and we will continue to take the show on the road throughout the country to ensure that all Americans have a healthier system of health care.

#### IT IS TIME TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the time for an increase in the minimum wage has not just arrived; it is long overdue. The national minimum wage has not been increased in 9 years. By year's end, 21 States across America will have a minimum wage exceeding the Federal minimum wage. Isn't it about time that we in Washington recognize the need to act, to level the playing field? Of course it is. The way things are going, we are not too far from the day when it will take an hour's labor just to pay for the gasoline to get to the job. Then, if you are like most people and you want to go back home after you work, it is going to take you another hour's wages, 2 hours just for transportation for the minimum-wage worker.

What is left for the other essentials of life, to put a roof over your head and food on your table? Not very much.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, we need to act now to increase the national minimum wage.

#### QUESTIONING REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, here are some of today's headlines:

"Toll Climbs in Mideast As Fighting Rages On."

"Scores Killed in Bomb Attack Near Shiite Shrine."

"Three U.S. Soldiers Killed on Monday."

"Taliban Capture Two Afghan Towns."

"Oil Futures At \$75 a Barrel."

"Wholesale Prices Climb 0.5 Percent in June."

"Heat Wave Strains Electric Systems Nationwide."

The Republican Congress's response is banning gay marriage. It is an obvious connection.

On this day nearly 2,000 years ago, Emperor Nero played his fiddle while Rome burned to the ground. This Congress would make the Emperor proud.

With all the challenges facing our Nation here at home and abroad, the Republican leadership is trying to distract the American people by playing the same old tunes, writing discrimination into the United States Constitution.